



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESEVE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, March 3, 2011**  
**SUMMARIZED MINUTES**  
**Granite Reef Senior Center, Room 8**  
**1700 N. Granite Reef Road**  
**Scottsdale, AZ 85257**

**PRESENT:** Howard Myers, Chairman  
James Heitel, Vice Chairman  
Carla, Commissioner  
Deke Joralmon, Commissioner  
Fred Klein, Commissioner  
Gerald Miller, Commissioner  
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner (arrived 5:07 p.m.)  
Linda Whitehead, Commissioner

**ABSENT:** Melinda Gulick, Commissioner  
BJ Heggli, Commissioner  
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Bill Murphy  
Kroy Ekblaw  
Claire Miller  
Robbin Schweitzer  
Scott Hamilton

**GUESTS:** Carla Benkosky  
Con Englehorn  
Joni Millavec  
Mike Nolan

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members present as noted above.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of the regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2011.**

Commissioner Whitehead pointed out that the motion to approve the draft rock climbing guidelines and the draft conceptual rock climbing plan included amendments by Commissioner Klein and herself. Commissioner Carla requested that the results of the vote to approve the addition of trail segment B2 to the conceptual Preserve Trails Plan reflect that she dissented because the Arizona Horse Council was not consulted.

**COMMISSIONER KLEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 3, 2011 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN HEITEL, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS GULICK, HEGGLI, AND HUBBELL WERE ABSENT. COMMISSIONER WHEELER WAS NOT YET PRESENT.**

**5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE**

Mr. Nolan gave an update on the stewards' activities in February, including construction maintenance mitigation and the flora survey. About 25 people attended the cowboy poetry reading at the Gateway.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

Ms. Miller reported on cleanup activities and the strategic placement of cholla to encourage people to stay on the trails. She displayed photos of the Preserve under snow and described finding baited traps on State Trust land. She discussed how hunting laws and Preserve rules relate, and trespassing by jeep tour operators.

**7. NORTH AREA - STAFF PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Hamilton announced that City Council has approved the contract to design plans for trailhead amenities at Brown's Ranch. He discussed management issues regarding access to the northern areas of the Preserve. Staff have been mapping the penetration points and have already dealt with some. Other locations will require more substantial barriers. He explained that parking would be designed to minimize dust. A vehicle gate will be needed for maintenance and utility company vehicles.

Ms. Miller said it is difficult to enforce the prohibition on motorcycles and ATVs. On the question of fencing off federal land, she said a balance needs to be found. Mr. Hamilton said there has been gang activity on the federal land.

Mr. Hamilton discussed plans for the trails that staff is working on. They hope to bring a detailed plan to the Commission in the summer. They discuss a proposal with Game and Fish to research the wildlife in the Preserve and how to protect it. He clarified that that the flora and fauna survey is being conducted by volunteers coordinated by the Conservancy.

Mr. Ekblaw told the Commission that currently only two Jeep tour operators and one trail operator are offering tours in the State lands.

8. **COMMISSION WORKPLAN DISCUSSION**

Tabled to the next meeting.

9. **COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

- Land Resources Task Force

Commissioner Heitel reported that the Land Resources Task Force draft report has been completed as a basis for discussion at a future Commission meeting. An initial discussion took place about funding for future acquisitions, zoning, and user fees. Chairman Myers directed everyone to email their comments to staff.

10. **GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Ekblaw presented a revised version of the General Plan update. The Commissioners discussed the interface with the Transportation Master Plan and the land connection between the northern and southern portions of the Preserve.

**COMMISSIONER CARLA MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE OF THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE TO "WILDLIFE AND TRAIL LAND CROSSINGS." VICE CHAIR HEITEL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS GULICK, HEGGLI, AND HUBBELL WERE ABSENT.**

**COMMISSIONER MILLER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE. VICE CHAIR HEITEL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED BY A VOTE OF EIGHT (8) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONERS GULICK, HEGGLI, AND HUBBELL WERE ABSENT.**

11. **APS - 118th STREET POWERLINE STATUS**

Mr. Ekblaw reported on the progress of work with APS. Following discussion, he undertook to research the correlation between bed tax, sales tax, and Preserve tax.

12. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Whitehead suggested that teleconferencing should not become a crutch for not attending Commission meetings in person.

Commissioner Miller reported on the possibility of funding a project to map and remove invasive plants from the area of north Scottsdale, Carefree, and Cave Creek.

13. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL 2011**

Chairman Myers noted that discussion on land resources will likely be lengthy. The strategy update will be on the agenda, as well an update regarding producing a written history of the Preserve.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.